

Remarks/Arguments

Claims 1-13 are pending in the application. Claims 1 and 8 have been amended to more clearly and distinctly claim the subject matter that Applicants regard as their invention. Claims 5 and 11 are cancelled and the features of amended claims 5 and 11 are integrated into claims 1 and 8, respectively. Support for the amendment is found in previously presented claims 5 and 11 and among others in the specification text, see paragraph [0023], paragraph [0011] and paragraph [0036]-[0073] of the published application. No new matter is believed to be added by the present amendment.

Claims Rejection Under 35 U.S.C. §103

Claims 1-13 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over He, US Pub. No. 2006/0155802 A1, hereinafter He in view of Slaughter, US Pat. No. 6,898,618.

Applicants submit that amended claim 1 is patentably distinguishable over He in view of Slaughter, for at least the following reasons.

He describes sending, by a device in a network, of so-called node announcement messages [0107]. He's node announcement message is described in [0023], which mentions that a global node control device or a specific node announces the message of existence to the network. Paragraphs [0045]-[0046] mention that information of a home backbone network device is multicast in an announcement message. Paragraph [0052] mentions that the announcement message includes: at least a device description, a network addressing identification of the device and service information carried by the device.

The Office Action asserts that He discloses sending an announcement message for service information from a device to another device in a communication network. However, He does not disclose or suggest that auto description information describing a device contains the characteristics of a software module making it possible to control this device, let alone that the auto description information comprises characteristics of a software module making it possible for the connected devices to install the software module and to control the discovering device by means of the software module. He also fails to disclose or suggest auto description information of each of the connected devices comprising characteristics of a software module making it possible for the discovering device to install the software module and control each of the connected devices by means of the software module, as recited by amended claim 1.

Thus, He does not disclose or suggest the dispatching or receiving of auto description information that comprises characteristics of a software module, making it possible for a receiving device of the auto description information to install the software module and to control the device that has sent the auto description information by means of the software module.

In addition, Applicants submit that He does not disclose the feature of dispatching of an auto description information request message to all the connected devices. The Office Action cites paragraphs [0118] to [0123] as supposedly disclosing among others the feature of dispatching an auto description information request message to all the connected devices connected to this network. The Applicants respectfully disagree. Paragraph [0118] merely mentions a communication between two nodes (source and destination) related to sending of a resource sharing request, to establish a resource sharing relationship between the two nodes:

"The control device of one node (called a source node control device) can initiate a resource sharing request to the control device of another node (called a destination node control device)."

Once the resource sharing relationship has been established the two nodes can exchange node resource information:

"Only after the two nodes have established the resource sharing relationship, they can exchange node resources information."

The other paragraphs [119] to [123] and [0131] to [0134] do not discuss at all the sending of a request message.

Clearly, the request of He, which is sent from one device to another device and which in addition concerns a resource sharing request, does not correspond to the feature of claim 1 of dispatching auto description information request message to all the connected devices. Therefore, the feature of dispatching of an auto description information request message to all the other second devices connected to this network is not disclosed or suggested by He.

At least the above features of claim 1 are also not disclosed by Slaughter. Slaughter is cited as disclosing another aspect of the claimed invention. Even assuming arguendo that Slaughter discloses the other aspect, Slaughter finds to cure the defect of He as applied to claim 1. Therefore, the suggested combination of He and Slaughter still fails to disclose or suggest each and every limitation of the claimed invention.

Claims 2-4 and 6-7 depend on patentable claim 1 and add further limitations to that claim. For the reasons stated above, claims 2-4 and 6-7 are also believed to be patentable over the cited combination.

Independent apparatus claim 8 comprises similar limitations in terms of means as independent patentable method claim 1 in terms of steps. For similar reasons as discussed above for claim 1, Applicants submit that claim 8 is also patentable over the cited combination.

Claims 9-10 and 12-13 depend on patentable claim 8 and add further limitations to that claim. For at least the reasons stated above, claims 9-10 and 12-13 are believed to be also patentable over the cited combination.


Conclusion

Having fully addressed the Examiner's rejections it is believed that, in view of the preceding amendments and remarks, this application stands in condition for allowance. Accordingly then, reconsideration and allowance are respectfully solicited. If, however, the Examiner is of the opinion that such action cannot be taken, the Examiner is invited to contact the Applicants' attorney at (609) 734-6815, so that a mutually convenient date and time for a telephonic interview may be scheduled.

It is believed that there are no additional fees due with regard to the filing of this response. However if there is an additional fee due, please charge the fee, or credit any overpayment, to Deposit Account No. 07-0832.

Respectfully submitted,

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Date: 7/12/10^{mc}

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